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First Selectman's Corner

Dear Essex Friends & Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I would like to thank the residents of Essex for your ongoing support. It is a privilege to continue to serve you as your First Selectman. The Town continues to move forward on a sound financial foundation bolstered by a core staff of professionals in every area of municipal operations and services. Those services are reinforced by Selectmen Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac, who are experienced municipal managers. We work together to ensure that Essex continues its positive momentum.

To stay up-to-date with what's happening in our community, I encourage residents to sign up for the Essex News quarterly email newsletter and the emergency notification system, Safer Essex. You can subscribe to both services by going to our Town website at: <https://www.essexct.gov/home/pages/online-services>. While we continue to battle the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic, these Town resources are valuable.

The Essex Health Department and Nutmeg Pharmacy resumed the vaccination clinics in October to administer booster shots and the vaccine to anyone who has not yet received any vaccination. I want to express my sincere appreciation to all those working at and attending these clinics.

Vaccination is the means to the end of this pandemic.

This year the Board of Finance dedicated the 2020-2021 Annual Report to the Essex Ambulance Association, Essex Essential Workers, Essex Fire Engine Co. #1, Essex Police, Town Hall Employees, and Town Volunteers. Their extraordinary efforts, selflessness, and commitment during the COVID-19 pandemic kept the Town's essential services fully operational. The Annual Report is available online and copies are available at the Town Hall.



Norm Needleman
First Selectman

Due to the ongoing housing boom we experienced growth in our average daily membership of school populations resulting in a small increase in the mil rate for the 2020 Grand List from 21.81 to 22.43.

Preparation for the 2022-2023 annual budget is underway. Letters have gone out to Town schools, departments, boards and commissions and they will soon be compiling and **continued on page 5**

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submitting their requests. Our goal is to continue to meet your needs and expectations with the highest levels of service, while keeping expenditures low. The schedule of budget meetings has been posted on the Town website. Budget meetings are open to the public, and we hope you will attend. The Board of Finance has overall responsibility for the budget process and will submit a final budget for the approval of residents at a Town Meeting, scheduled for May 9, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

As always, I encourage you to contribute to the safety of all drivers and pedestrians this winter season. Please wear seat-belts, drive safely, make sure your tires are in good shape, be alert to icy road conditions, and drive within the speed limit. Prepare your homes and cars for the winter weather and be equipped for emergencies. Kindly clear your sidewalks of snow as soon as possible after storms so pedestrians can walk safely, clear of traffic. If you see something that needs to be repaired contact our Public Works Department at 860-767-0715.

On behalf of all of us at Town Hall, I wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Norm Needleman, First Selectman

Evacuation Registry for Citizens with Special Needs

The Essex Health Department maintains a list of seniors and residents with special needs who may require evacuation and shelter assistance during a natural or man-made disaster. Residents with medical disabilities or transportation needs are encouraged to pre-register with the Essex Health Department for these services. The registration form is available on the Essex Town Hall website at: www.essexct.gov under Forms & Documents or in the Essex Health Department.

Citizens who register are asked to keep their information current and to update it annually. Personal information is kept confidential in accordance with state and federal law, and is maintained by the Essex Health Department. Data will only be used by emergency personnel during preparedness planning and evacuations. Registration is FREE and VOLUNTARY. Your information is used solely by those public health and safety agencies that will assist you during an emergency. It does not imply or guarantee any other service.

Completed forms should be mailed to:

Essex Health Department, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426. Questions or concerns may be directed to the Health Department at: 860-767-4340 x 118.

Lisa Fasulo, Essex Emergency Management Director



Essex Chocolates

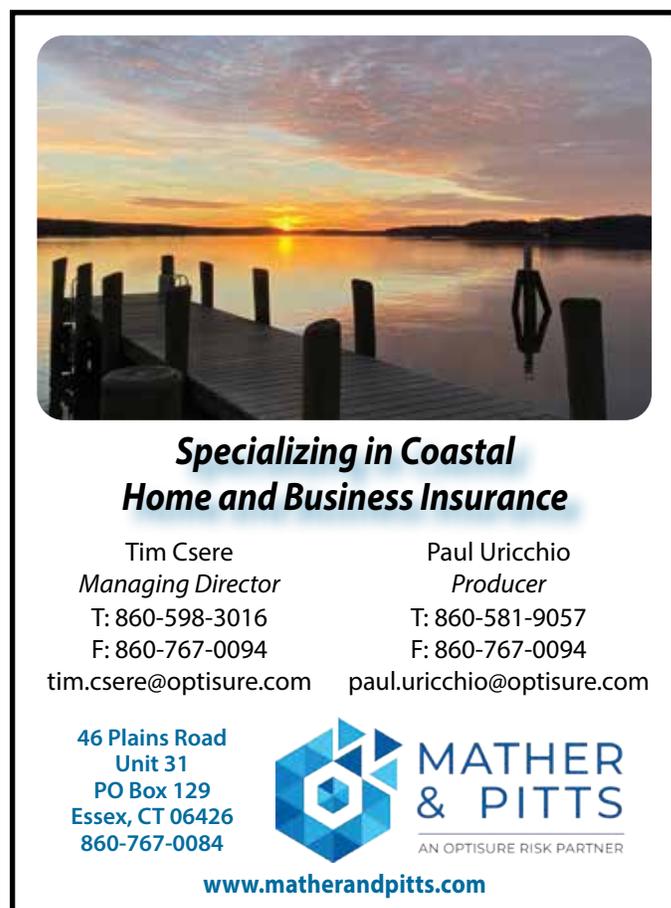
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Reduce COVID-19 Virus Transmission



It's January 2022 and the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us. We've learned a lot in these past 24 months about respiratory virus transmission, mRNA vaccines, isolation & quarantine protocols, travel restrictions, workplace policies, school safety protocols, nasal swab tests, and more. We constantly

hear conflicting information coming from every point of view saying, "Don't do this" or "Make sure you do that" or "Now have to do something else". We all just want it to go away...

But in the meantime, each one of us can do our own small part to reduce COVID-19 virus transmission and thereby help keep ourselves, our families, and our community as healthy as possible.

The fundamental mitigation measures which can reduce risk of virus transmission remain unchanged:

- WEAR A MASK in public areas (wear it even if a store, business, restaurant, church, library or another public place does not require it).
- SOCIAL DISTANCE (take 2-3 steps away from others in public places; we live in a small village so there's absolutely no need to crowd together)
- PRACTICE good personal health habits (wash hands frequently, cover cough/sneezes)
- AVOID close contact with people who are sick (even if they have a "winter cold" or flu)
- STAY HOME while you are sick AND adhere to Isolation protocols (your coworkers and classmates and preschool kids and senior citizens thank you.)
- GET VACCINATED as soon as possible including the recommended Booster vaccine.

These are very simple preventative behaviors which can reduce the risk of you or someone in your household from becoming severely ill. That's the goal, right? Reduce spread of virus, prevent severe illness, and avoid lengthy quarantines. We'll get through this pandemic by working together.

Lisa Fasulo, Essex Health Dept

Stay Healthy • Get Vaccinated • Get Tested

VISIT:

portal.ct.gov/coronavirus

for Connecticut COVID-19 vaccination & testing information

VISIT:

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV

for updated information from the CDC





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3 FOXBORO ROAD
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85 RIVER ROAD, L3
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Essex Elementary School Foundation Announces Over \$50,000 in Grants & Program Funding to Essex Elementary School

The Essex Elementary School Foundation (EESF), supported by the residents and community of Essex, approved over \$50,000 for enrichment programs offered at Essex Elementary School (EES) that would otherwise not be available through traditional funding by the school system and budget.



4th Grade EES Students participate in Scientist in Residence program, presented by the CT Audubon Society Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center, funded by the Essex Elementary School Foundation.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the approved programs and grants include a renewed collaboration with the Essex Historical Society to provide a comprehensive Historian in Residence program to help students learn about the rich history of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. For a second year, grades K-6 will be inspired to solve grade-level specific math problems in designated locations around town through the Summer Math Passport Program. These math equations are designed to spark an interest and curiosity in children as they explore their world through the lens of mathematics. The CT Audubon Society's Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center (CAS/RTPEC) will once again offer a Scientist in Residence program for K-6 students and teachers. The program will include virtual learning as well as field trips in the spring. Other continued grants and programs include Bloom Art instruction, Lego Engineering and 3D Printing Makerspace afterschool programs.

New for 2021-2022, the Connecticut River Museum will work with the Essex Elementary School grades 4-6 to provide experiences to increase students' knowledge of their town and connection to the Connecticut River. Grades K-2 will receive



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Looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year, the Essex Elementary School Foundation is in the process of developing a STEM Lab for all students and teachers at EES. The goal is increased interest and lab access leading to enhanced educational experiences in mathematics and the sciences.

“The enhanced learning experience at Essex Elementary School is what helps to make our community stand out. Last year, due to the pandemic, the number of programs supported was reduced. We are thrilled to bring back some favorite learning opportunities in addition to some new collaborations with our local community organizations.” says Bill Jacaruso, EESF President. “We are grateful for the generous support from our local parents and community members to make these programs possible.”

Learn more by visiting: www.essexesf.org.

FISH (Friends in Service Here)

FISH was founded locally in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. The officers for 2022 are Henry May, President; Stuart Warner, Vice President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; Barbara Ryan, Treasurer and Jack Frost, Driver Recruitment. Dispatchers are John Heiser and Tony Carrano.

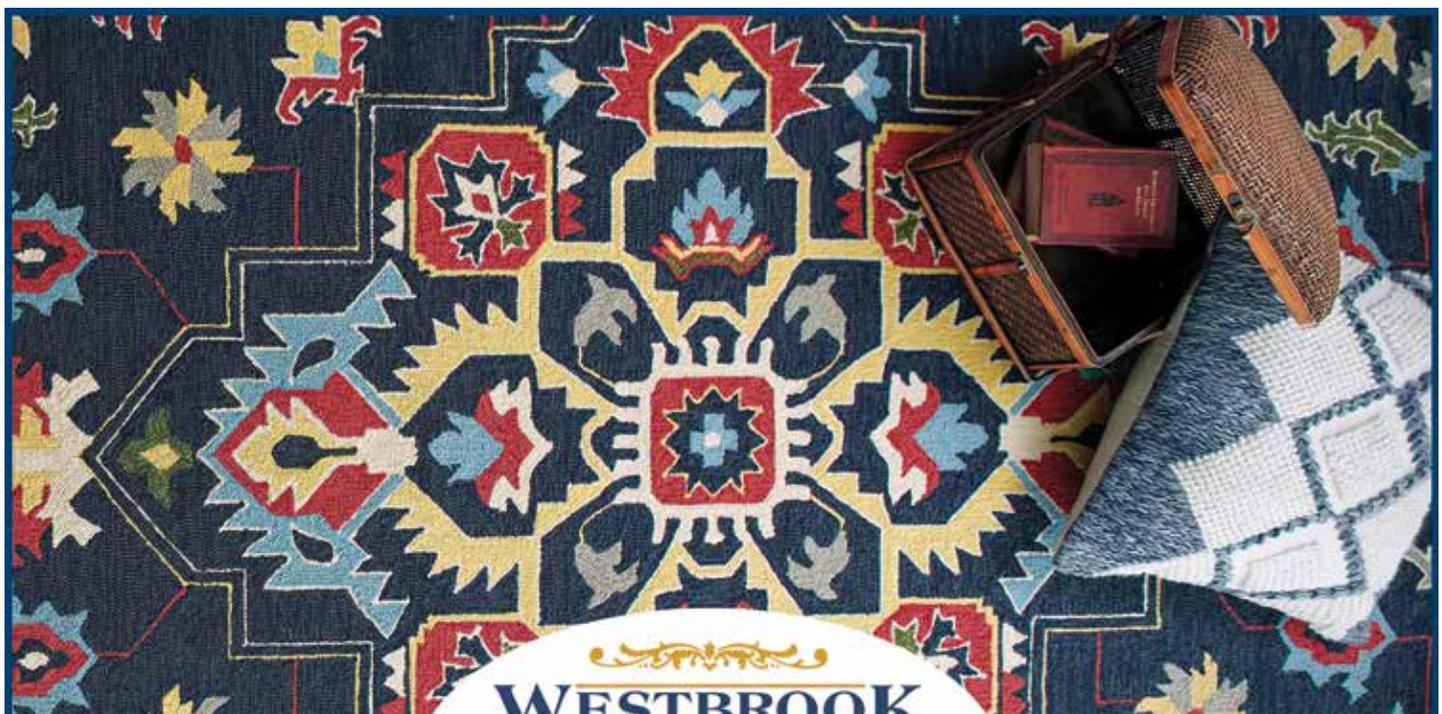
FISH Board decided to suspend driving in March, 2020. FISH provided some rides over the last several months in 2021 and have resumed full service beginning this September 2021. We have coordinated our plans with the health departments of Essex, Deep River and Chester. FISH drivers and riders are required to be vaccinated and to wear masks.

grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Essex Rotary Club, the Essex Savings Bank, the Deep River Community Health Committee, the Town of Chester, the Town of Essex, and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers, riders and friends. We did not ask for donations for 2021.

With the onset of the Corona Virus, the

The modest FISH budget is funded by

Henry May, Driver and President



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Essex Land Trust Coming Events



**UNINVITED
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by Jane Seymour,
a Garden Club
co-sponsored event
March 7
at 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue

Invasive species pose a major threat to wildlife, our environment, and the economy. Join our presenter, Jane Seymour, to learn about some of the more common invasive species in our area, their impact, how they got here, and how to control them.

Jane Seymour is a wildlife biologist for the CT DEEP Wildlife Division. She is a steward of the Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon where she manages the wildlife habitat including the control of invasive species.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ESSEX LAND TRUST

Jeff Croyle & Land Trust Stewards

April 9 at 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Ivoryton Library, 106 Main Street, Ivoryton

Want to learn more about the Essex Land Trust and its role in the community? Jeff Croyle is the land trust's Vice President, Chair of the Nominating Committee and manages our volunteer community. He is also the steward of Windswept Ridge. Jeff will provide an overview of the ELT's mission and accomplishments, its 2022 calendar of events, available volunteer opportunities and highlight a few of our Ivoryton preserves.

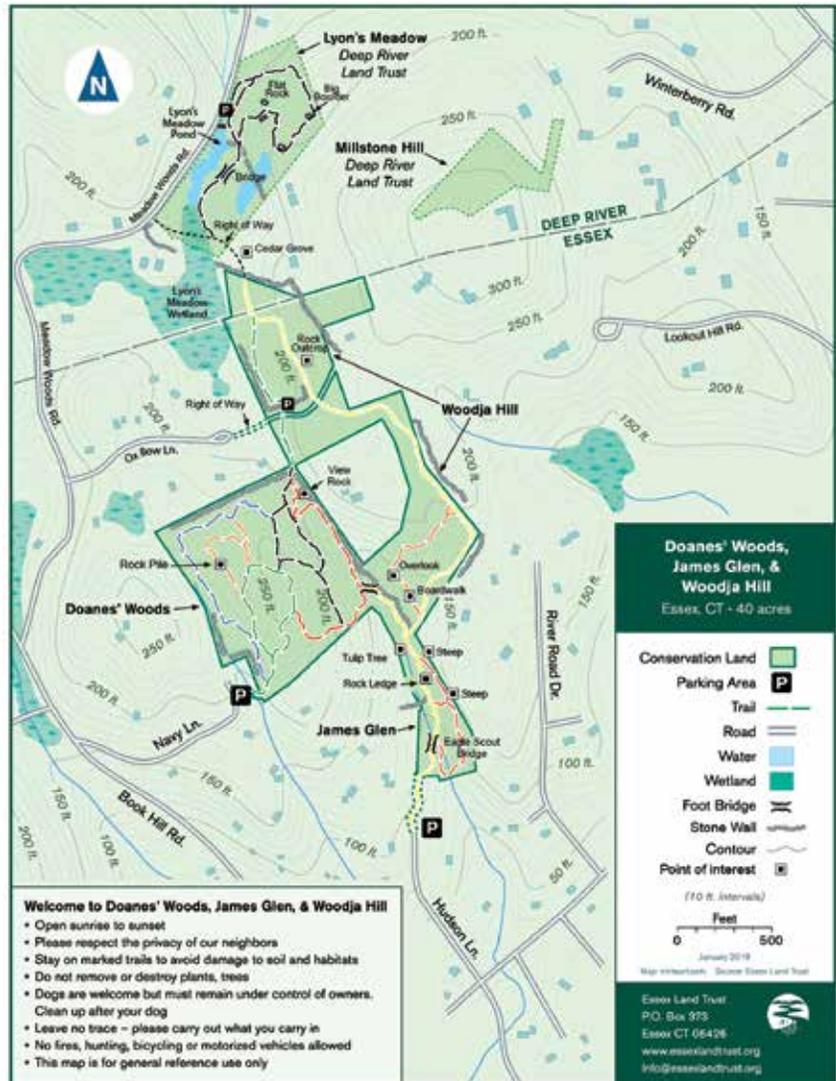
GOOD PLANT / BAD PLANT? UNTANGLING THE WAY WE REGARD OUR LOCAL VEGETATION

April 23 at 9:00 am - 11:00 am

East Preserve entrance, Ingham Hill Road, Essex

Naturalist Judy Preston will lead a hike in The Preserve, which will be a leisurely walk to identify and better understand the difference between native, non-native, invasive and naturalized plants. The threats are real, and so are the challenges to addressing them. But even the "solutions" can be problematic. We will begin the discussion, but beware: you may leave with more questions!

Judy has been working in the environmental field doing community-based conservation in Connecticut for over 25 years. An experienced local conservationist, Judy consults to



Map of the James Glen, Woodja Hill and Doanes' Woods Preserves.

provide natural resource inventories and management plans, ecological garden and landscape design, and environmental outdoor experiences for small groups. She is employed full time at the Long Island Sound Study and Connecticut Sea Grant where she provides public outreach and education on the environmental issues facing Long Island Sound.

Essex Land Trust owns 23 preserves with over 55 well-maintained trails managed by volunteer stewards; easy access to most properties from our three villages

Canfield Meadow Woods	Johnson Farm	Pond Meadow
Cross Lots	Heron Pond	The Preserve
Doanes' Woods	Jean's Island	Thatchbed Island
Falls River Park	James' Glen	Tiley Pratt Pond
Falls River	Millrace	Stanley Park
Farm Hill Estates	Morgana's Place	Windswept Ridge
Fern Ledge	Osage Trails	Woodja Hill
Great Meadow	Bushy Hill/Platt	



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Registrars of Voters

In Essex, the voter rolls are managed on a bipartisan basis by the registrars of voters. The annual canvass will be conducted between January and May 2022 to ascertain changes in residences. The registrars use a variety of sources including the National Change of Address (NCOA) as well as the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a consortium of 30 states that share information in order to maintain the most accurate up-to-date voter lists possible.

When voters either haven't voted in four years or ERIC or the NCOA data indicate they may have moved out of state, the registrars send a canvass letter to the voter. If the voter fails to return that canvass letter within 30 days or the letter is returned as undeliverable, they are moved off of the active voter list and onto the inactive voter list.

After four years on the inactive list the voter is removed from the voter registry.



Sustainable Essex

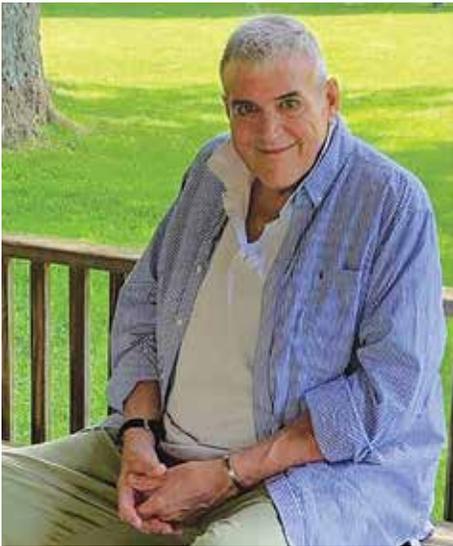
On Saturday, November 20th Sustainable Essex hosted a community **Toy Swap** at the Essex Elementary School. The event was designed to encourage families to rethink holiday gift giving. Toys, books and games are so quickly outgrown so we hope to start a new tradition to REDUCE and REUSE to help minimize waste in our community. We were thrilled with the level of participation and there was a wonderful assortment of donated goods that were picked up to be gifted to another child to enjoy. This will be an annual event so start collecting toys, books and games for next year to ensure these items are used to their fullest life and kept out of our landfills! The event is free and open to everyone. All items that remained were donated to the Ivoryton Library to support local families in need and PRP-R3 Thrift Shop in Deep River which uses proceeds to support animal rescue and rehabilitation.



Sustainable Essex hosted a community Toy Swap at the Essex Elementary School.

Sustainable Essex hosted its first **Source to Sea Clean-up** event. Partnering with the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) dozens of volunteers gathered to remove trash along the CT river watershed in the Tri-town area. In addition to removing the trash, the goal of this project is to create awareness, collect, identify and tally the trash to help CRC in supporting waste reduction legislation.

ON A SAD NOTE, Mike Long, co-chair of the Sustainable Essex town committee, died on November 21st due to complications from a stroke. Mike was the driving



Mike Long, co-chair of the Sustainable Essex town committee.

force behind the committee. Despite suffering from a debilitating form of arthritis which limited his mobility, Mike worked tirelessly on his committee work which he described as his passion and the focus of the next stage of his life. Two years ago, Mike began the Sustainable Essex Environmental Discussion (SEED) series which has been a huge success. He will be greatly missed.

Climate Change and Connecticut: What is Happening and What it Means for Us?

Changes in climate are impacting plant and animal ranges, migrations on land and water systems, disrupting food webs, increasing pathogens, parasites, and diseases as well as changing extinction risks. All the latter affect ecosystems and ecosystem services.

In the US, spring now arrives 10 to 14 days earlier than it did 20 years ago. Obvious changes related to the timing of the seasons: when plants bud in spring, when birds and other animals migrate. There is evidence of shifts in tree species on mountains in New England (largely in the transition zones,) and as rivers warm with warmer air temperatures, shifts in fish populations.

The Known Knowns

LET'S BEGIN WITH WHAT WE KNOW.

Following are some of the knowns which are affecting our world.

- For 650,000 years atmospheric CO2 has remained below 300 parts per million (ppm). It surpassed this level around 1950 and is currently over 400 ppm with no signs of slowing down
- Global surface temperature show that the Earth has warmed since 1880
- Most of this warming has occurred since the 1970s
- Warming ocean temperatures: From 1901 through 2015, sea surface temperature rose at an average rate of 0.13°F per decade

continued on page 14



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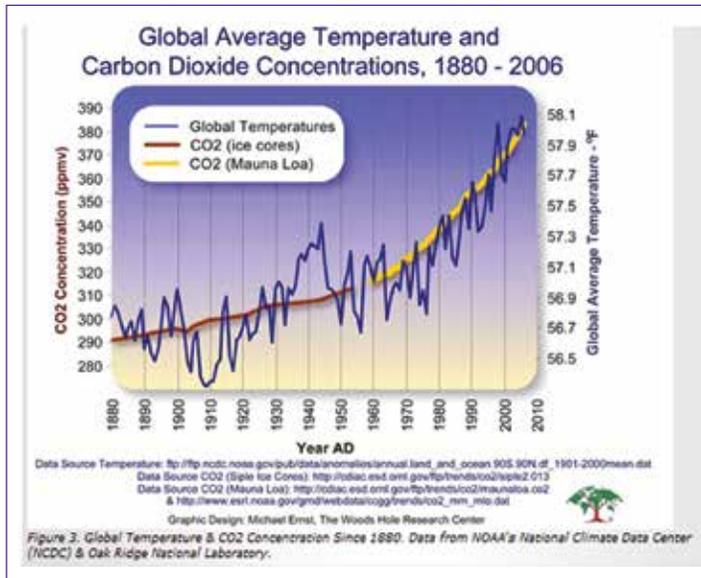
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Climate Change & CT... continued from page 13

- Sea level rise: global sea level rose about 17 cm (6.7 in) in the last century. The rate in the last decade, however, is nearly double that of the last century. Sea level rise for Long Island Sound is projected to be approximately 20 inches in by 2050
- Since 1979, more than 20% of the Polar Ice Cap has melted away
- Annual average temperature in US has increased by 2°F with winter temperatures rising twice this much in the northeast over the last century. As we have all experienced, there are more frequent days with temperatures above 90°F
- Water temperature of Long Island Sound has increased 1°C (1.8° F) since 1900



The Impact of Warmer Water & Changes in Habitat

Climate change is having significant and multiple effects on our environment. Warmer air temperatures lead to warmer water temperatures which in turn create changes in habitat. According to Peter Auster and Penny Howell, in a study on fish trawls in Long Island Sound, they found a shift in fish species within the Sound. "This is a cycle that is not going back to original conditions. Things are changing. The diversity is changing. For an estuary where the animals are notoriously well adapted to variable environments, to see this kind of shift in such a short period of time, that really says something about what's happening. (Howell)" "It is a reminder that climate change effects are not just being seen on coral reefs in the tropics and polar bears in the Arctic, but also in areas with more moderate climates like the Sound." (Auster) from The Day, article by Judy Benson 09/12/12.

One impact that many are not aware of is increasing ocean acidification. Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30%. Excess acidity blocks growth of corals and shellfish. In the future, some species in the food web will benefit while others will decline.

Other impacts caused by climate change include increased coastal

erosion, loss of tax base (through destruction of coastline homes), increased heavy precipitation events, runoff from heavy rains, and

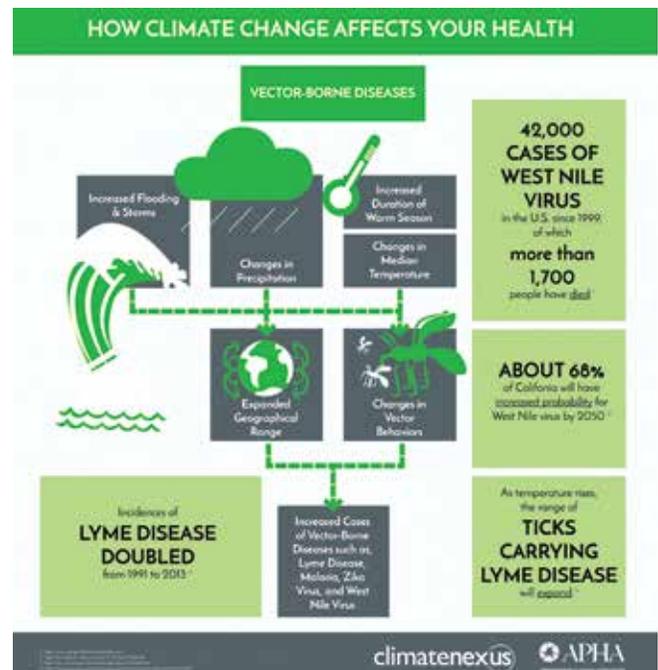


reduced water quality. During heavy rains (often the result of tropical storms), many waste water treatment plants are incapable of handling excess water flows resulting in untreated sewage flowing into the Sound. High water levels may flood agricultural fields, generating crop losses.

Other Less Obvious but Likely Impacts

The Connecticut River's salt wedge may move further upriver with sea level rise. Some of the freshwater wetlands may transition to brackish, and brackish wetlands to salt marshes. Changes in the timing of the spring freshet will also impact wetlands. Vernal pools may decrease in size or dry up; others may increase. Wetland types may change such as from marsh to forest. Associated flora and fauna may change as wetlands change.

Less winter precipitation is falling as snow and more as rain. With



continued on page 16

#1 Total Transactions in Essex 2019, 2020, & 2021*



75 SOUTH MAIN STREET
Essex | \$4,250,000 | Available
Single Family Home



LOT G DENNISON ROAD
Essex | \$499,000 | Available
Building Lot



33A PROSPECT STREET
Essex | \$4,000/month | Available
First Floor Rental



26 PLAINS ROAD
Essex | \$2,950/month | Available
Single Family Home



45 PLAINS ROAD #1
Essex | \$2,500/month | Available
Industrial



45 PLAINS ROAD #2
Essex | \$2,500/month | Available
Industrial



17 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD #8
Essex | \$2,000/month | Available
Industrial



10 BOKUM ROAD
Essex, \$15.95/sqft/month | Available
Office

CURRENT LISTINGS

38 Plains Road, Essex, \$2,300/month, Industrial | 45 Plains Road, Essex, \$1,300/month, Office | 36 Plains Road, Essex, \$400/month, Office

UNDER CONTRACT

65 Main Street #16, Essex, \$339,900



28 DENNISON ROAD
Essex | \$1,650,000 | Sold



60 SOUTH MAIN STREET
Essex | \$1,350,000 | Sold



33 PROSPECT STREET
Essex | \$1,050,000 | Sold



15 PRIMROSE LEDGE
Essex | \$735,000 | Sold



30 SOUTH MAIN STREET
Essex | \$682,000 | Sold



34 PRATT STREET
Essex | \$650,000 | Sold



38 SOUTH WINDS DRIVE
Essex | \$649,000 | Sold



146 SAYBROOK ROAD
Essex | \$557,500 | Sold

ALSO SOLD

38 Plains Road, Essex, \$2,100,000 | 28 River Road, Essex, \$1,100,000 | 8 South Cove Lane, Essex, \$799,000 | 144 Saybrook Road, Essex, \$778,000
58 Saybrook Road, Essex, \$725,000 | 26 Harbor View, Essex, \$690,000 | 12 Carriage Lane, Essex, \$600,000 | 48 River Road, Essex, \$850,000
17 Partridge Lane, Essex, \$575,000 | 16 Deer Lane, Essex, \$497,000 | 27 Melody Lane, Essex, \$475,000 | 29 Blake Street, Essex, \$398,500
65 Main Street #15, Essex, \$337,000 | 27 South Main Street #3, Essex, \$315,000 | 38 Plains Road, Essex, \$7,345/month
91 Main Street, Essex, \$3,500/month | 85 River Road #F2, Essex, \$2,150/month | 17 Industrial Park Road #1, Essex, \$2,000/month, Industrial
36 Plains Road #1, Essex, \$1,700/month | 36 Plains Road #6, Essex, \$1,500/month | 36 Plains Road #7, Essex, \$1,300/month
35 Pratt Street, Essex, \$1,200/month | 73 Main Street #5, Essex, \$1,200/month | 90 Pond Meadow Road #3, Essex, \$1,200/month
36 Plains Road #5, Essex, \$400/month | 36 Plains Road #4, Essex, CT, \$400/month



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*Source: SmartMLS; *Total Transactions: single family, multi-family, residential rental, lots and land, business, commercial lease and commercial sale in Essex 01/01/2019-12/31/2021. While information is believed true, no guarantee is made for accuracy.

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Climate Change & CT... continued from page 14

reduced snowpack and earlier breakup of winter ice on lakes and rivers, spring snowmelt will lead to earlier peak river flows.

Poor air quality and heat related illnesses: As temperature increases, the air becomes more stagnant creating health problems particularly for the elderly and young children. Increasingly, there are serious health effects of vector-borne diseases such as Lyme Disease, Malaria, Zika virus and West Nile virus. As air temperature rises, the range of ticks carrying Lyme disease will expand. Incidence of Lyme disease in the US has doubled from 1991 to 2014. There have been 42,000 cases of West Nile virus in US since 1999, and more than 17,000 people have died.

What is to be Done?

It is clear that conflicts can arise in balancing public use, private property rights and the protection of natural resources.

Municipalities need data, recommendations for models/policies, understanding of costs, how to phase in adaptation, and money. There will be costs associated with adaptation and recommendations for a phase in of adaptation measures.

The University of Connecticut has several programs aiming to inform, educate and promote action. Adapt CT, is an outreach program of Connecticut Sea Grant and CLEAR, the Center for Land Use Education and Research. It provides information, tools,

training, and workshop opportunities to assist communities, businesses, and residents of Connecticut in their efforts to prepare and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

Climate Corps: students will have the knowledge and skills to work with Connecticut communities on climate vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning and policy.

After all This, What can we Look Forward To?

A longer growing season (but watch for spring/fall frosts!), New plants for southern New England (think about pollinators,) be prepared for droughts with water conservation, and watch out for new invasive plants and new insect pests

In nature, timing is everything. It can influence recreation, agriculture—even economics. Whether people come to see the fall colors, watch migrating whales or catch a glimpse of rare birds, visitors to the Northeast impact the economy. What everyone can do is to learn more and stay informed, reduce your own climate emissions, become a citizen climate scientist, and ultimately take political action.

By Juliana Barrett, PhD. & Jim Denham

Connecticut Sea Grant, UConn Extension, Essex Land Trust

Notes from a presentation to the Essex Land Trust

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Essex Community Fund

It is exciting to hear from the non-profits that we support on how they are transitioning back into helping our residence while still being mindful of COVID-19 protocols. From offering rides to medical appointments, preparing/distributing meals, to providing emotional/mental support to our students and residents; it is wonderful to see our community come together to keep our residents healthy and strong. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers that give of their time and talents to make Essex a better place to live. We are pleased to help them continue their efforts.

THANK YOU!

To all that came to our Stuff-a-Cruiser event on December 3rd.

This event was co-sponsored with the Essex Police. Essex Boy Scout Troop 12 volunteered to load/unload the trailer and sort at the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry. We collected over 700 pounds of food and received \$90 in donations for the Soup Kitchen to purchase items that they identified were needed. SSKP was grateful for the donations as they continue to feed our residents. A big thank you to the Essex Fire Department for allowing us to hold our event at their location.

NEW VOLUNTEER.

Welcome to Allison Koehler!



Essex Community Fund, Essex Police Department and Essex Boy Scout Troop 12 collecting donations for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

She is a Realtor with Page Taft Compass in Essex and joined ECF in 2021. Her background is in fundraising for independent schools and nonprofits throughout Connecticut. Allison enjoys hiking, traveling, and volunteering for organizations like the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

CONSIDER BECOMING A VOLUNTEER.

ECF is a great way to learn more about your community's needs and how you can help improve life for our neighbors, your family, and future generations. ECF has many opportunities to volunteer. Please consider becoming part of our organization, it is a wonderful and rewarding way to give back to your community.

A Better Today and Brighter Tomorrow for All...

Now is the time for us to give thanks for all the good people making great things happen in Middlesex County.

Thank you for putting your hearts and dollars to work in our local communities.

Thank you for helping our local nonprofits meet the increasing and changing needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for working together for a better today and a brighter tomorrow for all.



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ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING AT THE ESSEX LIBRARY!

The Library's Board of Trustees approved the 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan at their annual meeting in October. Implementation of the Plan's action items is already underway. Watch our website and monthly newsletter, *Elations*, for details. Our Plan is posted on the library's website and print copies are available at the library.

The four central goals in the Plan are:

- offering available, accessible and responsive programming, services and collections;
- providing tech infrastructure that supports free unfettered access to reliable information and promotes effective and equitable delivery;
- committing financial resources for a vital, mission-driven and user-friendly organization;
- to recruit and retain the best employed and volunteer talent.



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Our 2021 Laptop Series, generously funded by a grant from the Guilford Savings Bank and Community Foundation of Middlesex County, provided 13 programs for more than 200 attendees this fall. The grant also funded the purchase of 6 Chromebook laptops - now available for patrons to check out for home use.



The Essex Library was selected to receive a second Libraries Transforming Communities Grant from the American Library Association and will use the funds to pursue programming related

to climate change and income inequality this spring. The Peach Pit Foundation has also given the library \$2500 to help spread fun and kindness in the community.

We're planning kids' Story Hours for February through April with surprise guest readers. In February, we'll be asking patrons to submit their love-liest photos of Essex which we'll use to create an "I Love Essex" photo exhibit in March.

Garden design will be a theme for Zoom programs this spring, kicking off with James Golden discussing his garden, Federal Twist, a favorite of Monty Don's. Those events will culminate with the Friends of the Essex Library's Garden Tour fundraiser in June. Tickets are sure to sell out fast!

The Library of Things collection continues to grow; items available to check out include board games, handyman tools, cake pans, and much more. Items circulate for 3 weeks.

The Friends of the Essex Library

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET NEW PEOPLE, HAVE FUN, AND SUPPORT THE ESSEX LIBRARY?

If so, become a volunteer of the Friends! The Friends mission is "To promote and enrich the services, programs and facilities the Essex library provides to our community through: volunteer services, fundraising and advocacy." We are a diverse group of people who bring different skills, talents, and life experiences to share. Our one thing in common is a love for books and a desire to support and enrich our community.

There are multiple ways you can make a difference, be it sorting through donations, assisting at book sales, or getting involved with fundraising events. There is no cost, no long-term commitment, and you choose how involved you want to be. If you would like to join the Friends, please stop down in person, or find more information at: www.youressexlibrary.org/friends.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SPRING BOOK SALE!

It's a bit earlier this year and will be held on Saturday, April 2nd with the Bag of Books Sale on Monday, April 4th. We will have all new inventory of donations as we started fresh after the successful fall sale.

As always, thank you for supporting the library and remember to check the website often to see what's new at the library and with the Friends at: www.youressexlibrary.org!

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**HOLIDAYS ARE OVER AND IT'S COLD OUTSIDE.
HOW CAN THE IVORYTON LIBRARY HELP?**

Come visit and check out books, magazines and movies.
And board games and craft tools...

Of course we have many downloadable options for you through Hoopla: eBooks, audiobooks, comics music and video. Our digital library through Overdrive has eBooks, audiobooks and magazines. And the CT State Library will be introducing a new service soon.

What's new on Hoopla: Single borrow Binge Pass! Use 1 of your 10/month borrows on Binge Pass and read as many of the 50 magazines available in 7 days. Or another borrow to stream as many of the Great Courses as you can in 7 days! More options coming soon.

Zoom Bingo! Register for our Zoom Bingo Night February 9 at 7:00 pm. Visit the website for the registration link and to print out your Bingo card(s).

Join a Book Club: we have three! Tea and Murder on the 3rd Friday of the month at 4:00 pm. Facts and Fibs on the 3rd Tuesday at 4:00 pm. Own Voices meets quarterly in January, April, July and October.

In the Children's Room: The computers in the Children's Room are now available for use. Lots of new books on display and waiting for you. Nutmeg nominees are also available, along with descriptive pages to assist you when it's time to vote.

Every week the National Observances display changes. Grab and go crafts and learning pages on the weekly theme are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Girls Who Code for 4th-6th grade girls meets Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 pm. Learn different aspects of computer science and complete various challenges.

Cooking Class is held once a month on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm. Check the Website for dates and info.

Storytime (ages 2 and up) is held Wednesdays at 10:30 pm. This is held outside, weather permitting. Bring a blanket, masks required. We will enjoy stories and sing our favorite songs! Pre-registration is required.

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Connecticut River Museum News

The *Onrust* finished out her season taking in the beauty of fall on the Connecticut River. Folks enjoyed the stunning views of our local area. No matter the season, the river is always a calming presence. Public school groups started to return for their usual in-person field trips, and our campus was frequented by numerous homeschoolers from across New England and the tri-state area. It is always nice to hear the young voices!

Everyone enjoyed the 3rd Annual Mistletoe & Martinis, Thursday, December 9. Ani's Table catered our event this year with delicious offerings. The famous Red Box Raffle, supported by Becker's of Old Saybrook and bidding on the nearly 30 generously donated holiday wreaths for the Wreaths of the River Valley rounded out the evening.

Our 28th Holiday Train Show exhibit runs through February 20, 2022. Steve Cryan,



The 28th Annual Holiday Train Show runs through February 20, 2022.

our resident train artist, created a winter wonderland in the fully operational 26-foot model train layout. Visitors are challenged with "I SPY" scavenger hunts and the very young can experience the American Flyer and Lionel train layout designed for toddler size viewing.

The exhibit is a perfect outing for train fans and all who are young at heart. Sponsored by Lorensen Auto Group and Webster Bank.

COMING THIS WINTER

- **Speaker Series**, Josh Shanley, Author – *The Connecticut River Valley Flood of 1936* - February 10
- **Speaker Series**, Dick Shriver, estuary Magazine – *The Connecticut River* – March 15
- **NEW EXHIBIT!** Speed: Hydroplane Racing on the CT River, 1900 – 1940 April 8

More information may be found at: ctrivermuseum.org.

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Michael J. & Diane M. Brody	29 Pratt Street	Essex
Christine & Michael Yost	65 Main Street	Essex
Abigail L. Sattler	52 Pond Meadow Road	Ivoryton
Jason & Donna Block	27 Eagle Ridge Drive	Essex
Benjamin & Jihyeon Berman	5 Clarks Pond Lane	Ivoryton
Joanna & Benjamin White	15 Ridge Road	Centerbrook
Bryan Kollmer	60 C Lynn Road	Ivoryton
Ryan & Gillian Carson	37 Main Street	Essex
James & Cynthia Lee Loeffler	60 South Main Street	Essex
William & Cynthia Horr Jr.	32 Main Street	Essex
Carolyn Hause & Matthew Jones	6 North Main Street	Essex
Molly Decker Moser	18 Essex Glen Drive	Essex
Robert & Sally Emma	203 Westbrook Road	Essex
Lisa Krall	34 Laurel Road	Essex
Reena & Sanjay Mithal	30 West Avenue	Essex
Thomas & Lavora Ewan	10 Foxboro Road	Essex
Jan Gorlick	18 Heron Pond Road	Essex
Kristen Schultz & Nicole Mullen	30 Grandview Terrace	Essex
Jonathan & Kaitlyn Weiss	Mill Road, Lot A	Essex
James C. Gendron	6 Fairview Street	Ivoryton
John & Kristie Walencyk	50 Woodland Drive	Centerbrook
Diana T. Gregory	65 Main Street, Unit 15	Ivoryton
Laurel L. McCarthy	68 Westbrook Road	Centerbrook
Jonathan & Brittany Comerford	28 Rosewood Lane	Ivoryton
Lisa Bolard	9 Oakledge Drive	Ivoryton
Justin Smith	42 Lynn Road	Ivoryton
Steven Jansen & Heather Kelsey	14 Essex Glen Drive, Unit 16	Essex
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September

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Judith D. Kells
Theresa K. Butler
Brian Willis
Shirley B. Cannon
Kathryn M. Bosco
Joan P. Weeks
Paul M. Comstock
Elizabeth R. Godsman

October

William Herbert Grover
Mary Louise Lombardi
William Willett Prout Jr.
James O. Starkweather
Dorothy Williams
Robert Donlin

November

Robert K. White
Alma E. Brown
Janet T. Lee
Joan M. Fernandez
Patrick F. Bowditch
John Katzenbach
William E. Buckridge
John J. Newsome Jr.
George J. Reichman

December

Henry C. Clifford Jr.
Diane G. Murphy
William J. Niedbala
William F. Mozzer

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Assistant Town Clerk

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Essex Park & Recreation Department

Mission Statement
Creating Community through People,
Parks and Programs!

Full event information will be posted on our Facebook page and website.

ESSEX GO BRAGH IRISH PARADE

Park and Recreation will host its 9th Essex Go Bragh Irish Parade, to be held on Saturday March 19, 2022, after a two-year hiatus due to health concerns related to COVID-19. The event will feature an Irish-themed parade down Main Street into the heart of Essex Village lead by Grand Marshal Robert Russo, recently retired Park and Recreation Commission Chairman. All Essex residents and community organizations are encouraged to get involved.

IN THE WORKS...

One of the fastest growing sports in America involves a court and a net. And, no, it's not tennis or badminton, it's pickleball. Essex Park and Recreation is working with Essex Elementary School to begin offering Adult Leagues and Youth Pickleball Clinics March 2022. follow us on Facebook or Instagram for updates.

Park & Recreation Programs

Park and Recreation always has a great offering of recreation programs to choose from. Our Winter Programming is available online and registration is open

STAY TUNED FOR OUR 2022 SPRING / SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION IN FEBRUARY!

Returning favorites will include Outdoor Yoga, Boating Certification Course, Volleyball, Zumba, Archery, Running Rams, Tennis, Summer Camp and Summer Concerts!

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Park and Recreation Commission welcome the opportunity to help you with issues involving the Department and our Community. The public is invited to attend our meetings, held 6 times



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Tennis and Summer Camp are two of the many programs offered at Essex Park & Recreation this spring and summer.

Recreation Aide, Tim LaChance
767-4340 x148 tlachance@essexct.gov

CONTACT US!

We welcome hearing from you on our programs, parks, and the operations of our department. Remember to visit our website for updated announcements, program information, online registration and to view our brochure: go to the Town website at: www.essexct.gov, and "Like" us on Facebook!

per year at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. See our calendar available online at: www.essexct.gov.

Our members include:

Brette Fitton, Chair John Bean
Tony Mosa Dan Needleman

Department Staff

Director, Mary Ellen Barnes, CPRP
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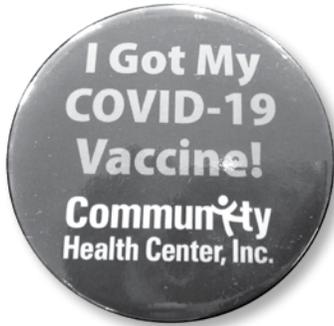
It is Connecticut's free and confidential information and referral service. By calling 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours-a-day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.

Visit the website for more information: <http://www.211.org/#>



Essex Historical Society Winter Projects, 2022

Join Essex Historical Society (EHS) for projects, collaborations and events this winter. To learn more and to renew your EHS membership in support of local history, please visit us at: www.essexhistory.org, follow us on Facebook or Instagram or call, 860-767-0681.



Objects such as this vaccination button will be included in the Pandemic History Project.

PANDEMIC COLLECTIONS PROJECT

Be part of history! We have the opportunity now to collect objects, photographs and memories detailing COVID-19's impact on the town of Essex in 2020-2022. This winter, EHS and Essex Library Association are

embarking on an ambitious collaboration. We are interested in learning about your stories, artifacts and photos (printed or digital) about the impact of COVID-19 on your experience at work, school, home, house of worship, organization, etc. Materials will be entered into an online database, accessible

to the public, and become part of EHS's collections. Please look for more information and 'donation days' in early 2022.

ONLINE LECTURE SERIES, 2022

With safety as our primary concern, EHS will host its popular Winter Lecture Series in an online format in 2022. Held via Zoom in late January in early February, the lectures will be held on late Sunday afternoons, please stay tuned for details via email or social media. As ever, the series will be free and available wherever you have internet access. Our working theme is "History and Art." An online series guarantees that everyone will stay safe and can be enjoyed by our many 'snow birds' eager to resume their winter migration.

EHS IS HIRING!

Essex Historical Society looks forward to expanding its professional staff in 2022 with the hiring of a Membership & Programs Coordinator. This part-time (20hrs pr/wk) position will work under EHS's Director and assist with EHS's development efforts, public programming and general operations. Please contact EHS Director Melissa Josefiak at: mjsoefiak@essexhistory.org or 860-767-0681 to learn more.

Essex - Community Listings

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

- All Saints Episcopal Church..... (860) 767-1698
- First Baptist Church..... (860) 767-8623
- First Congregational Church (860) 767-8097
- Ivoryton Congregational Church..... (860) 767-1004
- St. Teresa of Calcutta Church..... (860) 767-1284
- St. John's Episcopal Church..... (860) 767-8095
- Trinity Lutheran Church (860) 767-0228

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Ancient Order of Weeders..... (860) 767-2700
- Democratic Town Committee..... (781) 483-2021
- Community Foundation of Middlesex County..... (860) 347-0025
- Tri-Town Cub Scout Pack 13..... (860)-558-2121
..... tritownpack13@gmail
- Essex Board of Trade..... (860) 767-3904
- Essex Boy Scouts of America..... (860) 304-9027
- Essex Community Fund..... (860) 304-2751
- Essex Cub Scouts of America (860) 790-0681
- Essex Garden Club (860) 388-7209

- Essex Historical Society..... (860) 767-0681
- Essex Lion's Club..... (860) 767-8072
- Essex Land Trust..... info@essexlandtrust.org
- Essex Little League..... www.essexlittleleague.org
- Essex Veterans Memorial Hall (860) 767-8892
- F.I.S.H. (860) 388-2693
- Ivoryton Company of Fifers & Drummers..... (860) 767-2237
- Ivoryton Village Alliance info@ivorytonalliance.org
- Lower Valley Visiting Nurses..... (860) 767-0186
- Republican Town Committee..... (860) 262-0226
- SCORE Mentors (860) 388-9508
- The Shoreline Soup Kitchens (860) 388-1988
- Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau..... (860) 526-3600
- 9 Town Transit (860) 510-0429

SCHOOLS

- Essex Elementary School..... (860) 767-8215
- John Winthrop Middle School..... (860) 526-9546
- Superintendent..... (860) 526-2417
- Valley Regional High School..... (860) 526-5328



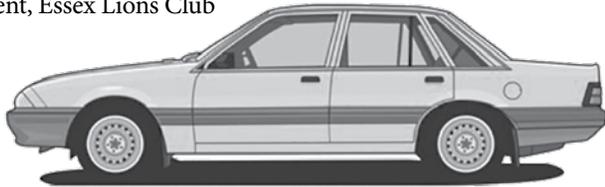
Essex Lions Club

P. O. Box 525 | Essex, CT

Due to current economic circumstances, the Essex Lions Club has not been able to conduct fundraising in our normal fashion. Thinking outside the box, we are proud to present a recycled car program in partnership with Essex Detailing. This allows us to continue our fundraising efforts in a safe environment.

If you, or anyone you know that has a car they need to get rid of, please reach out to us. Please contact Jim at 860-304-0126. You will receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation. All funds raised by the Essex Lions Club is distributed throughout our community to those in need.

Cathy Shanley
President, Essex Lions Club



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Essex consists of three unique villages and is ideally located on the Connecticut River a few short miles from Long Island Sound. Well-known

for its beautiful landscapes, majestic trees and gardens, fascinating architecture, and cultural and historical attractions, we are a boating and sailing destination as well. Essex is famous for hosting a multitude of parades throughout the year and offers an outstanding culinary and shopping experience to our residents and visitors. Come experience, explore and enjoy the small-town enchantment of Essex, Connecticut.

Visit our website at:
www.essexct.gov

ESSEX TOWN HALL

860-767-4340 (Unless otherwise noted)

THE ESSEX TOWN HALL
is open 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday

THE LANDFILL AND RECYCLING CENTER
is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 7 am to 3 pm

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Norman Needleman, First Selectman	x114	nneedleman@essexct.gov
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Matthew Carroll, Assistant ACO	x160	mcarroll@essexct.gov
ASSESSOR		
Jessica Sypher, Assessor	x124	jsypher@essexct.gov
Assistant to the Assessor	x123	
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Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov
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Kerry Berardinelli	x119	kberardinelli@essexct.gov
Don Mitchell	x151	dmitchell@essexct.gov
LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER		
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Tim LaChance	x148	tlachance@essexct.gov
PLANNING DEPARTMENT		
	x150	
PUBLIC WORKS		
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Richard Gallacher, David Martin, David Massey, Paul Mackenzie		
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Barbara Ryan	x142	bryan@essexct.gov
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ESSEX POLICE		
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Robert Hart		rhart@essexct.gov
Judson Howes		jhowes@essexct.gov
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Yvonne Roziak, Assistant	x128	yroziak@essexct.gov
TOWN HALL OPERATIONS/ MAINTENANCE		
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ZONING ENFORCEMENT		
Carey Duques, Enforcement Agent	x115	cduques@essexct.gov
Kerry Berardinelli	x119	kberardinelli@essexct.gov

www.essexct.gov

Vista Life Innovations Receives \$10,000 Grant from AT&T Foundation

The AT&T Foundation recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to support internet safety training at Vista Life Innovations (Vista), a nationally approved post-secondary training program dedicated to the personal success of individuals with disabilities who reside along the Connecticut shoreline.



Rep. Vin Candelora, Helen Bosch, Vista CEO and Kelly Wade Bettuchi, AT&T Reg. Director.

The award will underwrite a series of safety training for the neurodiverse individuals that Vista serves on topics such as navigating the internet safely, managing social media, and protecting personal information.

Helen Bosch, CEO of Vista, states, "We are appreciative of State Representative Vin Candelora's nomination for this great opportunity. The AT&T Foundation funding will enable Vista to continue to promote safer online practices for our students and members while also carrying out our mission to provide services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success. State Representative Vin Candelora describes, "The team at Vista does great work that truly makes a difference in the lives of so many people, and I'm happy to have played a small role in helping the organization secure this grant award that will only bolster its impact on people who depend on them."

Vista is excited to collaborate with AT&T and their commitment to providing public safety with the communication tools that people need. This grant funding will enable Vista to provide a safe and supportive environment for Vista's students and members—individuals with disabilities. "Vista Life Innovations is helping students to safely and effectively harness the power of technology. At AT&T, we are proud to support that important mission and help provide Connecticut students with an equitable opportunity to learn, thrive, and achieve their goals. Now more than ever, it is critical to ensure organizations like Vista Life Innovations have the resources they need to continue making a real difference in the lives of local students and families," said John Emra, President of AT&T New England.

Vista Life Innovations is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with campuses in Madison and Westbrook. Vista's mission is to provide services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success. For more information about Vista, please visit www.vistalifeinnovations.org.

Happy New Year!

WISHING YOU AND YOURS A SAFE AND HEALTHY 2022



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Sister Cities - Essex / Haiti - Officers are Announced & Sister Cities International Award was Received

Sister Cities Essex Haiti is proud to announce this year's officers as well as receiving a prestigious award from Sister Cities International.

Sister Cities Essex Haiti supports programs in Deschapelles, Haiti requested by the community that benefit the community. Their primary program includes maintaining a 2,000 sq ft library that has a collection of over 4,000 books that are in French and Kreyol, plus providing areas for children, adults and a computer lab. An interesting aspect is that the library provides a well-lit, mosquito-free place for youth and adults to study at night, rather than under the occasional street lights.

Diana Huot, President, Vice-Presidents Terry Parkinson and Jenifer Grant, Kathleen Maher, Treasurer, outgoing President Alexandra Johnson (who will remain on the board,) and Connie Connor, returning board member now serving as Secretary. Bob Lamothe, Kathleen Lowe and Hope Proctor will also continue to lead the organization for the coming year.

The board celebrated the first-place 2021 award for Innovation in Youth and Education from Sister Cities International for cities less than 25,000. The award focuses on the positive impact of tennis,



Sister Cities Board Members with the Sister Cities International Trophy.

music and robotics programs that provide unique opportunities for youth not otherwise available in rural areas of Haiti. The youth learn the importance of teamwork, respect for others, other specific skills and opportunities to be ambassadors for the town of Deschapelles when they travel to com-

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Alexandra Johnson, left, and Jenifer Grant, right.

petitions within Haiti. These programs augment the important work of the library by providing resources from its many books, librarian support, book groups, computer training and cultural and educational presentations.

Despite current challenges that include a minimally functioning government, the earthquake and a hurricane in the southern peninsula, gangs causing disruptions with robberies, kidnappings, roadblocks and closing off the fuel supplies, Deschapelles, located in the Artibonite Valley, a three hour drive from the capital city Port au Prince, has been calm and able to continue its programs.

Essex Garden Club

In preparation for the holidays the Essex Garden Club members decorated merchant window boxes and tubs. You could not miss the Silent Policeman as you entered town. To keep the tradition going of naming the Silent Policeman after a fashion designer, her name this year was Stella McCartney. People often gave a big wave to Stella as they entered and left the village.



Stella was decorated (from left) by Dee Dee Charnok, Joan Todd, Bill Sandberg, Leslie Barlow, Elise Helmecki and Sue Baker.

The Essex Garden Club, with their hard work, wished everyone a very Happy Holiday Season!

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Essex Garden Club Scholarship



Spring 2022

Attention students pursuing environmental careers

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Be a resident of Essex, Centerbrook, or Ivoryton, CT;
- Be planning to pursue studies related to the environment in an accredited two-year or four-year institute of higher learning;
- Be a high school senior or undergraduate/graduate college student. Prior year recipients are also encouraged to reapply;
- Have a "B" or better grade point average.

Fields may include: Agriculture, Biology, Ecology, Horticulture, Forestry, Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, or Environmental Law

Closely related subjects may also apply: Land Conservation, Landscape Design, Nursery Management.

Applications are available from your Guidance Counselor, at the Essex & Ivoryton Libraries or at:
essexgardenclubct.org

DEADLINE:

Return completed application by **APRIL 30, 2022**

To your guidance counselor or mail to:

Essex Garden Club
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Is that really a Wetland?

IT MIGHT BE!

Wetlands are not defined by persistent standing water, but rather by soil conditions and the plants growing in and nearby, which indicate water during some or all months of the year.

Wetlands and watercourses are protected by State of CT statutes that empower local jurisdictions to enforce those protections. Wetlands provide value by ensuring critical habitat for plants and animals that depend on them for food, cover, and breeding/spawning, while helping to absorb nutrients and storm run-off. Wetlands reduce downstream flooding risk and help to recharge water resources on which we all depend.

If wetlands (or a watercourse) are on your property, the first step is to consult with the Land Use Official Carey Duques at: cduques@essexct.gov or call at: 860-767-4340 ext 115.

Many minor maintenance activities are allowed "As a Matter of Right." No permit is required. The Land Use Official or Wetlands Enforcement Officer can make this determination and make a note in the Town's Land



Typical wetland in Essex.

Use office – should any questions come up. Other activities in the upland review area, although more significant, may clearly have no, or minimal detrimental impacts on the wetland or watercourse. For more substantial projects involving activities that will impact the wetlands or watercourse, the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) will work with property owners to mitigate the environmental impacts and allow the project to proceed.

Over the past two years the IWWC has issued 20 wetland permits and the Wetlands

Officer issued 20 administrative approvals. The Town GIS maps, available at: www.essexct.gov, highlight some of the known wetlands within Essex.

Visible seasonal or intermittent surface water can also be a good indicator. But, if there's any doubt, you can check with the Town to provide guidance and connect you with a soil scientist.

Please visit the website for more information at: <https://www.essexct.gov/inland-wetlands-commission>.



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114 Walkley Hill Road, Haddam | \$650,000



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81 Long Hill Road, Deep River | \$558,000



SOLD

36 Saybrook Road, Essex | \$462,000



SOLD

9 Oakledge Drive, Essex | \$455,000



SOLD

6 Petticoat Lane, East Haddam | \$440,000



SOLD

1221 Essex Road, Westbrook | \$445,000



SOLD

86 Main Street, East Haddam | \$419,438



SOLD

75 River Road, Deep River | \$392,000



SOLD

36 Town Street, Lyme | \$383,304



SOLD

24 Sunset Terrace, Essex | \$350,000

WISHING YOU A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2022!



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Ivoryton Playhouse

IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES
2022 SEASON ON APRIL 7TH, 2022

Ivoryton Playhouse will open a new season with something for everyone – a year full of exciting, affordable professional theatre. Plays for romantics and plays for cynics; shows for families and shows for sweethearts; classic hits from the 50s and 60s as well as country music favorites.



A snowy day at the Ivoryton Playhouse.



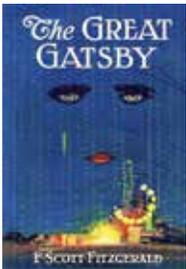
April 7th sees the opening of the world premiere of a new musical, **STAR OF FREEDOM**. Written by Connecticut native, Jeff Blaney and based on his concept album, Exodus, with a book by Lawrence Thelen, this exciting new musical tells the story of 2 very different lost souls in 1860s America, both searching for a new home. Filled with glorious Irish melodies and haunting gospel. Runs through May 1.

It is said that good fences make for good neighbors but in this hysterical new comedy, it just makes things worse. Gardens and cultures clash, turning friendly neighbors into feuding enemies in **NATIVE GARDENS** by Karen Zacarias. This hilarious comedy of good intentions and bad manners opens on May 19 and runs through June 12.

The Grammy and Tony award winning smash, **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ**, made history as Broadway's longest running musical revue. Featuring 40 of the greatest songs of the past century, including show stopping classics like On Broadway, Stand By Me, Jailhouse Rock, Hound Dog, Spanish Harlem, Yakety Yak, and Charlie Brown. Runs June 30-July 31.



The Man in Black is Back! **RING OF FIRE** – The Music of Johnny Cash created by Richard Maltby Jr. opens August 11. From the songbook of Johnny Cash comes this unique musical about love and faith, struggle and success, rowdiness and redemption, and the healing power of home and family. Includes I Walk the Line, A Boy Named Sue, Folsom Prison Blues, and more. A crowd pleasin' salute to a musical legend! Runs through September 11.



F. Scott Fitzgerald's **THE GREAT GATSBY** is the defining novel of the Jazz Age and this beautifully crafted play by Simon Levy, opening on September 29, captures the breathtaking glamor and decadent excess of the 1920s.

Come revisit Jay and Daisy and Nick as they struggle with love, obsession, greed and danger. Runs through October 23.



The Ivoryton Playhouse all decked out for the holidays.

Celebrate the holidays with **THE WINTER WONDERETTES**. This seasonal celebration finds the girls entertaining at Harper's Hardware Holiday Party. Featuring 60s versions of holiday classics, this energetic and glittering holiday package will delight audiences of all ages.

In 2022, we will be returning to full capacity seating and requiring proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test. Please check our website for COVID protocols.

Don't miss the most exciting, entertaining and affordable theatre on the shoreline! Subscriptions on sale now. Single tickets go on sale March 1, 2022. www.ivorytonplayhouse.org or 860-767-7318.

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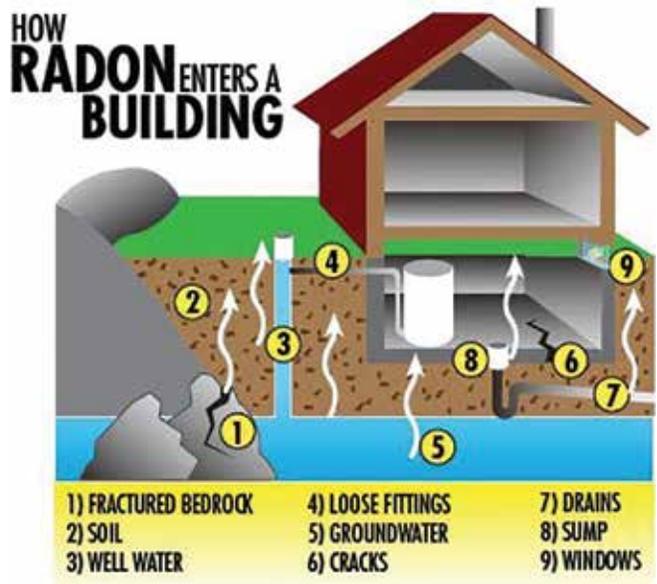
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Not COVID... I'm talking about radon gas.

Radon is a decay product from uranium in rocks and soil and can infiltrate your basement through cracks and joints in the foundation. It is a radioactive gas that can lead to lung cancer. It is responsible for over 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States and it is largely preventable. The good thing is, radon mitigation is relatively easy and inexpensive to do. Many homes in Essex have elevated radon levels!

January is National Radon Awareness Month (NRAM.) The Essex Health Department encourages you to check your house for radon gas during this heating season. Many people believe that if they don't test for radon then they won't have to disclose it when they sell their house. That argument simply doesn't make sense since most home buyers have a test run before they buy and you end up paying for a system anyway. Why not test now and protect your family's health while they live in this home? By the way, typically a radon mitigation system costs less than \$2,500.

The first thing to do is to test your house or apartment for the presence of radon gas. Results over 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries



per liter) are considered elevated (over the action level). Confirmatory tests can be run by a radon professional and mitigation performed if indicated.

The Essex Health Department has a limited number of



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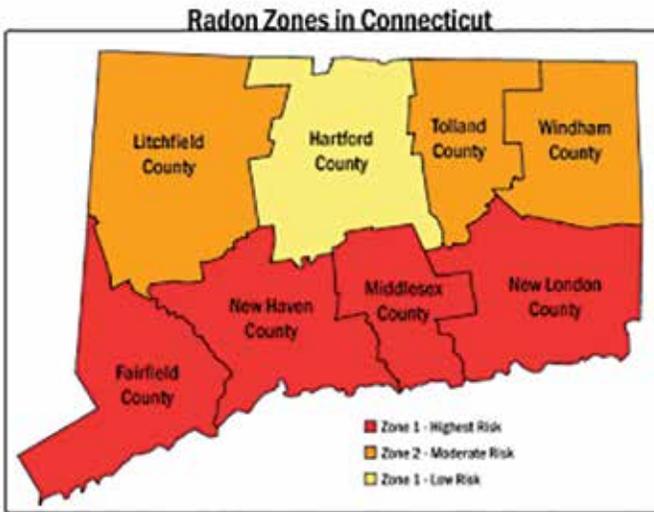
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Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program
860-509-7367 | www.ct.gov/dph/radon

IS RADON IN DRINKING WATER A CONCERN?

Radon may also be present in well water and can be released into indoor air during tap water use, such as, showering, laundering clothes, and dishwashing. Drinking water that contains radon is not believed to be a significant health risk compared to inhaling radon in air. The concern with radon in tap water is that some radon can enter the air and be inhaled, contributing to airborne radon levels. Radon in air is a much greater health risk than radon in water. Therefore, water testing should not occur until after radon in the air has been tested.

CT DPH recommends testing a home’s water for radon when the following two conditions are met: 1. the home is served by a private well; and 2. the indoor air has already been tested for radon.

The water sampling technique is critical in obtaining accurate results and should be performed by a qualified radon measurement professional (see the CT DPH Radon Program website for a list.) The water sample must be analyzed by a laboratory that is approved by the CT DPH Environmental Laboratory Certification Program to test for radon in the water. Results reported by laboratories that are not approved by CT DPH are not considered valid results.

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Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie...

"Apples, peaches, pumpkin pie; who's not ready, holler I" Elijah shouted. Sadie, her older brother Elijah and their friends were playing "Hide n' Seek" on an unusually warm, sunny February Groundhog Day as they waited to welcome Essex Ed at the annual Essex Groundhog Parade. And Elijah was "It."

Sadie had not found a suitable hiding place yet, and cried out "I!" Molly, their golden retriever, was not helping as she kept following Sadie everywhere.

Sadie could hear Elijah starting to count loudly again: "One Mississippi, Two Mississippi,"... when she spied a deep crevice in the side of a huge oak tree. "Perfect!" A few seconds after Sadie crouched into the dark gap, a kindly voice beckoned from behind: "Please come in!"

Alarmed, Sadie spun her head around. As her eyes adjusted from the bright sunshine, she could see a small room under the tree. In the middle of the room stood a large groundhog; smiling, and holding a petite teapot.

Sadie immediately recognized him, but still did not believe it. "Essex Ed?"

"Yes! Hello! Please call me Ed. What brings you to my humble home?" Sadie hesitated, still trying to make sense of what she was seeing "Um... Hi."

"You are obviously an enchanting conversationalist Sadie," ED observed, looking bemused. "I look forward to your next two words with great eagerness. Would you like more tea while you are explaining?"

Now completely puzzled, Sadie exclaimed: "But I haven't had ANY tea yet!"

"Then you definitely need more Sadie!" confirmed Ed.

"You know my name?"

"I know all of the Essex children. We get our pictures taken together each year after the parade."

"I didn't think you were actually real."

Ed bent down and whispered; "I'll tell you what. If you'll believe in me, I'll believe in you. Is that fair?" Sadie nodded slowly in agreement.

As Ed poured her tea, Sadie looked around the room. There was a cozy bed piled high with thick comforters, a small table and chairs, a photo of a young groundhog hanging on the wall, and a grandfather clock. In the corner was a large wardrobe cabinet with what looked like the Fore and Aft Naval hat of the Sailing Masters of 1812 sitting on top.

"Is that you?" Sadie inquired as she pointed at the photo.



"That's my nephew Phil. He moved to Punxatawney to carry on the family business. I taught him everything he knows."

"Is that a Sailing Masters' hat?"

"Yes. The Sailing Masters made me an honorary member years ago when we first paraded up Main Street together. We have been dear friends ever since."

"Can I try it on?"

"Of course you may." Ed took the hat from atop the wardrobe and placed it on Sadie's head.

At that moment, their family cat Binx poked his head out from under the pile of comforters. Startled, Sadie asked sharply, "What are you doing here?"

Binx responded politely: "I'm having tea. What are you doing here?"

"I'm playing hide n'..." Sadie stopped as the Sailing Master hat slipped down over her nose. As she lifted the hat up she blurted, "Wait... cats and groundhogs aren't supposed to talk!"

Binx retorted, "Yes, I know. That's what Molly keeps telling us." "The hat is a little big on you," Ed interjected, asking Sadie if she would like cream and sugar.

As she held up her cup, Sadie asked curiously; "What costume are you wearing this year?"

With a chuckle, Ed gently reminded her. "You know it's a surprise every year. You don't want to spoil the surprise do you?!"

Sadie's face clouded over. "It's a very sunny day. Will you see your shadow?" Ed reflected for a moment. "I haven't the slightest idea. I won't know until the parade. But remember, no matter what I see, I cannot unsee."

continued on page 40

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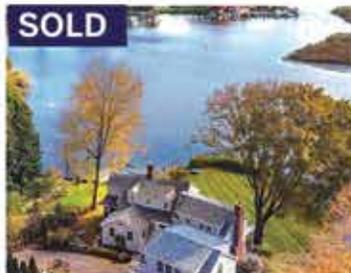
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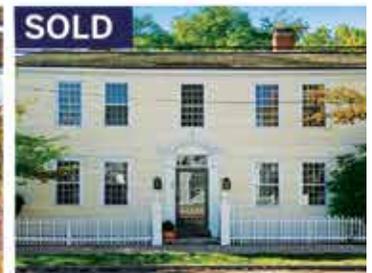
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Apples, Peaches Pumpkin Pie... continued from page 38

“Oh my. Look at the time!” Binx interrupted. “We’ll be late for the parade.” “Oh no! Everyone will wonder where I am!” Sadie scurried out the opening as she breathlessly thanked Ed for the tea over her shoulder. “I’ll see you at the parade!” Ed called after her.

Sadie burst from the crevice in the oak tree just in time to hear Elijah finish counting and call out “Ready or not, here I come!” He opened his eyes and immediately saw Sadie beside the oak tree with Molly. “Why aren’t you hiding?!” he asked in exasperation.

“I was! I’ve been in the tree for the last half hour!” as she pointed to the oak and saw there was only bark where the crevice had been.

“What are you talking about? I just finished counting a few seconds ago!” Elijah countered as he walked up to Sadie, shaking his head. “It’s time to go anyway. We don’t want to miss Ed. Olly Olly Oxen Free!!” he shouted, signaling their friends to come out of hiding.



The warm weather brought out a large crowd to welcome Ed; adorned in groundhog hats, and equipped with pots and pans.

Sadie, wearing her groundhog bonnet, waited impatiently with her family. When she heard the music of the Sailing Masters of 1812 coming down the street, it signaled Ed was on his way. Finally!

The onlookers cheered and banged their pots & pans as the Sailing Masters escorted Essex Ed to the head of Main Street. But not Sadie. She was despairing as she watched Ed for any sign he recognized her.

While the Sailing Masters played, Sadie sat on her dad’s shoulders for a photo in front of Ed. She did not feel like smiling, in spite of mom’s eager appeals to “Say Cheese!” When Sadie suddenly broke out in an enormous grin, mom declared “That’s better!” and snapped the photo. But only Sadie had heard the kindly voice beckoning from behind whisper “Apples, peaches, pumpkin pie; who’s not ready, holler I”.

If you are a big fan of Essex Ed (who isn’t?!) and would like to join the Sailing Masters to be part of everything “Essex,” the Sailing Masters invite you to “Come Aboard!” No previous musical experience required. For more information please call Vicki at: 860-212-1606 or email: captainvicki1812@gmail.com; or call Amanda at: 860-575-8931 or email: aepfairbanks@gmail.com.

6 Tips to Lower Your Energy Bill This Winter Season

The cold weather is here and while some New Englanders pride themselves on going as long as they can without turning on the heat, it's finally time to adjust the thermostat.

This winter, as the global demand for natural gas soars, heating prices are on the rise. But as a smart consumer, you can mitigate these costs by ensuring that your home is as energy-efficient as possible.

Take a look at the below list of energy efficiency tips to implement in your home this winter:

1. PREVENT DRAFTS:

To keep cold air out, you should properly protect your home against the elements. Windows, vents, and door frames can allow heated air to escape. Check that they are properly sealed to prevent drafts and leaks.

Also, locking your windows will make them tighter and draft resistant, as will closing storm windows. You can purchase or make door and window draft stoppers that will seal any leaks.

If you don't properly weatherize your home, your heating system will work harder than it has to, wasting energy and making it harder to stay comfortable due to drafts or hot and cold spots.

Let the professionals handle air sealing for you. Learn more about how Home Energy Solutions/a Home Energy Assessment can help.

2. TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HOME HEATING: Programmable and smart thermostats can be set to pre-determined temperatures during specific times of the day. The advantage of using these types of thermostats is that they allow you to customize your heating schedule, so while you're away from home or sleeping, you can adjust your settings accordingly to save money and energy. Rebates of up to \$100 may be available for the purchase of a new qualifying smart thermostat.

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3. CHECK YOUR FIREPLACE DAMPER: Leaving your fireplace damper open is the number one way cold air can sneak into your home without you realizing it. When the damper is open, warm air in your home can escape through the chimney, making the room colder than it needs to be.

4. LIGHT THE WAY WITH LEDs: However you decide to decorate this year, make sure to use ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs for all lighting needs. LED lights use far less energy than traditional bulbs—a string of 100 lights consumes about 8 watts, which is a fraction of what a traditional light bulb string requires. Plus, LED bulbs last far longer, so you won't be up on the roof trying to replace bulbs every season. To make these fun holiday lights even more efficient, utilize light timers to make sure they're only on when they need to shine.

5. CATCH SOME RAYS: Did you know you can use the sun to your advantage, even in the winter? By opening your curtains and blinds during the day, you can help heat a room with sunlight. Utilizing the natural power of the sun to keep your home warm can take strain off your HVAC system and lower your energy bill.

6. REPLACE YOUR FURNACE FILTER: When your HVAC system's filter is clogged, it reduces airflow, which puts strain on your heating and cooling system. To maintain good airflow, check your filter once a month to make sure it's not too dirty. If it's been a while since you replaced your filter, you should consider adding a pack of new filters to your wish list this season.

No matter how cold this winter gets, if you take the time to incorporate a tip or two, you can feel confident that your home will be both energy-efficient and comfortable this season.

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Dr. Todd Lanman – Repairing Lives from California to Connecticut and Around the Globe

by Sigrid Kun

When you think of Beverly Hills, you may think glitz and glamour...fabulous homes, fancy cars, Rodeo Drive. But there's life-changing work going on. And that's not just for movie stars, sports heroes, or top executives. Beverly Hills-based neurosurgeon/spine specialist, Dr. Todd Lanman, is making a difference for countless individuals from all walks of life - coast to coast and around the globe.

MOTION IS LIFE

Motion is everything. And the spine is at the root of it all. Spinal issues can be limiting, debilitating. Over the last 30 years, Dr. Lanman has been a leader in spinal care advances. That includes (among other things) single and multi-level artificial disc replacements, serving as the principal investigator for clinical trials for new devices, as well as pioneering Restorative Motion Surgery – a novel procedure he first performed in 2016 that removes a patient's prior fusion(s) and replaces it with one or more artificial discs to restore the patient to full or near full motion in the cervical spine.

At 64, he is an avid surfer, skier, biker, boater, with numerous blackbelts in martial arts. He understands the importance of an active lifestyle no matter one's age. There are about 480,000 fusions performed in the U.S. annually. Dr. Lanman believes more than half of these motion restricting surgeries should not have occurred. "For decades, spinal fusion was the go-to procedure, in a similar way to how one would have their hip fused when they had a degenerative hip," Lanman explains. "Nowadays, if a doctor said they wanted to fuse your hip, you would think they were crazy." That's where artificial discs come in. "The overwhelming clinical evidence over the last few years has shown me the same need for finding solutions for those suffering from degenerative discs. . . . I've heard stories from countless patients about how they feel they were given a second chance at life after being implanted with these discs."

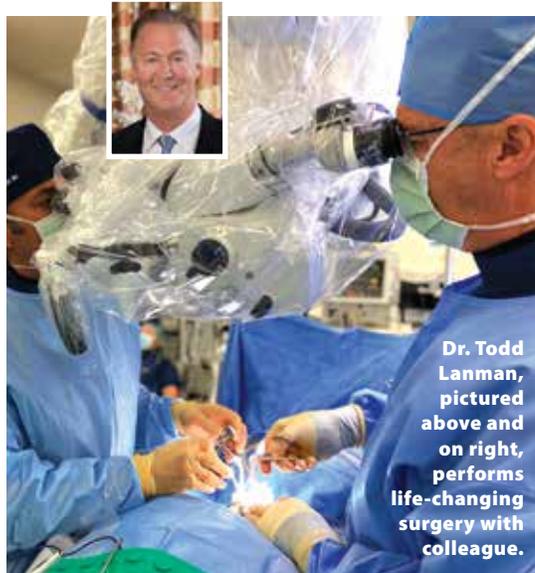
IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Taking extra time with patients is important to Dr. Lanman. "We were taught years ago to spend a lot of time getting to know the patient," he notes. "I'll spend at least an hour with a new patient, get to know them, and their lifestyle, what their work activities are, and their sports activities, and get a feel for their goals." His patients are testaments to the magic that can result.

Often, he isn't sure why the plates and screws were put into someone's neck. But he is determined to fix it. The lady from Texas? Numerous cervical fusions didn't allow her to look down to golf. He was able to restore motion. What about the 25-year-old wrestler from New England? Dr. Lanman reversed a fusion that allowed the young man to compete – and win – again. And yes, there are grateful patients from Connecticut. The common thread? To them all, Dr. Lanman is a true lifesaver.

"It's incredibly reaffirming to me and a great reminder of why I originally wanted

to become a spinal neurosurgeon," notes Lanman about being able to say 'we can do this' when other surgeons have said no. "I watch months and even years of anxiety release from a patient when they realize there is a solution for their constant pain, and they can once again lead a fully functional and active lifestyle."



Dr. Todd Lanman, pictured above and on right, performs life-changing surgery with colleague.

PAIN FUELS PASSION

Defining moments fueled Lanman's drive. "I was standing in the driveway of our home when a neighbor ran up to my mother and cried, 'JFK has been shot!'" The small-town Indiana boy tried to grasp the situation as he watched the live news coverage. "What's a neurosurgeon?" he asked. His mother explained how neurosurgeons were trying to save the President's life. "It was at that moment that I told my mother I wanted to become one. I wanted to heal people," Lanman says.

When Lanman was 9, his father was diagnosed with acute myeloblastic leukemia and died within three months. That further solidified Lanman's resolve to alleviate the pain that illness can bring to people. Lanman himself

has undergone four cervical and four lumbar spine surgeries. "I'm a doctor that takes his own medicine," he says. "I understand firsthand what it's like to have limited movement in your neck and back, and to suffer from excruciating pain. My patients are grateful because they feel I understand their concerns. They know I can relate to exactly what they are going through and that gives them comfort."

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Dr. Lanman has launched the largest disc replacement center in the U.S. (in Florida and Southern California) and soon to come in the mid U.S. to allow easier access for East Coast and European clients. He created the Lanman Foundation to provide advanced research regarding motion preservation and spinal surgery. The foundation also offers motion preserving surgeries to veterans who have injured their necks or backs while on duty. He is adamant about conducting multi-level artificial disc replacement studies. He advocates a new, holistic approach to research/spine health, including nutrition, hormone management, and stem cell issues. And he sees a brighter future – less fusions, more motion-preserving artificial discs, advanced surgical therapies, and newer, more cost-effective technologies.

"My hope is that we continue to follow the mission of preserving spinal function in adults at every age and restore motion to those afflicted by disorders of the spine and joints," underscores Lanman. "We seek to gather, evaluate, apply, and share information to advance the cumulative knowledge of these disorders and help improve patient's outcomes and their lives."



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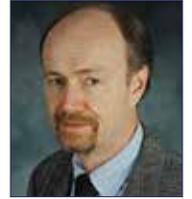
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